

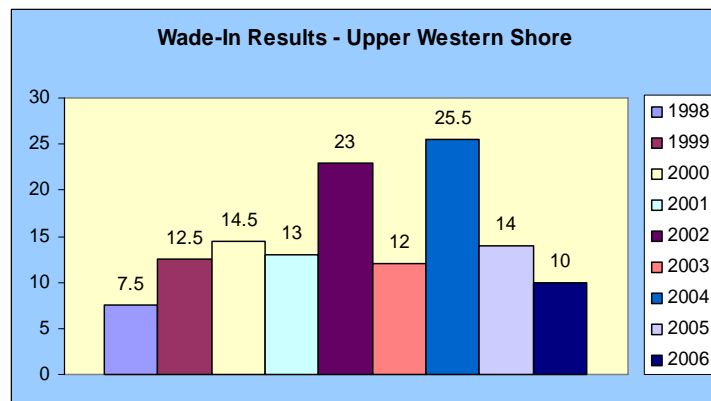


Upper Potomac

The Upper Potomac Tributary Team had a meeting at Woodmont Lodge and heard about the new Highland Action Program from Paul Kazyak from DNR. The Upper Potomac & the Middle Potomac teams also took a paddle on the Potomac River near Hancock on June 3rd to get out on the river.

Upper Western Shore

Upper Western Shore is hosting a Watershed Planning Forum on July 24th at Cecil Community College. The forum is to give county and town commissioners and other agency staff more information on how and why to plan for watershed protection and water quality as it relates to growth and development.



Despite the breezy day, many people came out to enjoy the Annual Upper Western Shore wade-in at the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center. There were several fun activities for children and adults to participate in, including: making fish prints, learning and playing with live baby horseshoe crabs, and activities demonstrating the surface tension of water. DNR's Scales and Tales did a presentation and there was live bay-friendly music by Don Shappelle. Free chips and sodas were available and best of all free ice cream provided by Kilby Cream.

Patapsco/Back

Three Chesapeake Bay Paddlers, three Chesapeake Bay Boston Whalers and three U.S. Coast Auxiliary patrol boats accompanied five swimmers across the mouth of the Patapsco River on Sunday morning, May 21st. The swimmers also collected over \$6,000 to benefit local watershed organizations. Following their finish, a large crowd of people waded into the water, testing its clarity and highlighting the need for meeting water quality goals.

With the winds on their backs, Maureen Rohrs, Jack Frain, Richard Wallace, Sue Megaw and Joe Stewart finished their 4.4 mile crossing in 2:11, 2:11, 2:16, 2:35 and 3:04 at North Point State Park. They were cheered in, warmed and well fed by members of the Patapsco/Back River Tributary Team and urban watershed organizations, a representative from U.S. Congressman

Ben Cardin's Office and spokespersons for the Maryland Department of Environment, local government and community organizations.

Neat educational displays were provided by the Port of Baltimore, Baltimore Maritime Exchange, Private Sector Port Coalition, Baltimore Harbor Watershed Association, Friends of Leakin Park/Gwynns Falls and Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Live bay-friendly music, a big 300th birthday cake for the port, hot dogs and hamburgers contributed to a festive celebration and wade-in captured by Fox TV for Sunday 10 PM News.

The \$6,000 raised in pledges and contributions will be distributed to North County Land Trust, Watershed 263, Gwynns Falls Trail Council, Baltimore Harbor Watershed Association, Jones Falls Watershed Association, Herring Run Watershed Association and Baltimore Sewer Coalition at the Thursday, June 8th P/BRTT Meeting, 6:00 pm at Harbor Hospital where urban watershed associations will be reporting in on the state of our watershed.

This was the fifth Save the Patapsco, Hon! Swim and third P/BRTT Wade-In.



Middle Potomac

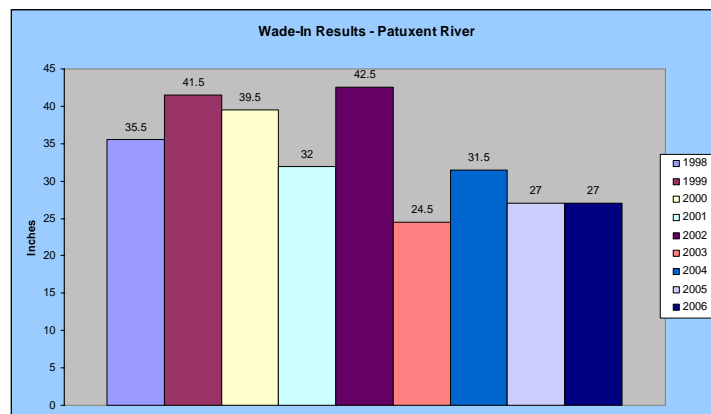
Middle Potomac's monthly meeting will be held Aug. 2nd at the award winning green building, Elevation 314. The team will also be taking a tour of the facility.

Patuxent



This year's annual Patuxent River Wade-in had well over a 125 people attending. Senator Bernie Fowler's Overalls water mark this year showed water clarity to end at 27 inches deep. That's far cry from the 63 inches deep of clarity that the river once had back in the 1950's.

The Pax River Commission is planning a Patuxent River Summit that will include a 25th Anniversary of the Patuxent River Commission celebration on Columbia Day weekend in Solomons, Maryland. For more information contact: Melissa McCormick at the Calvert Marine Museum, 410-326-204 ext. 41, or check the web at www.pradinc.org.



Lower Western Shore

West River

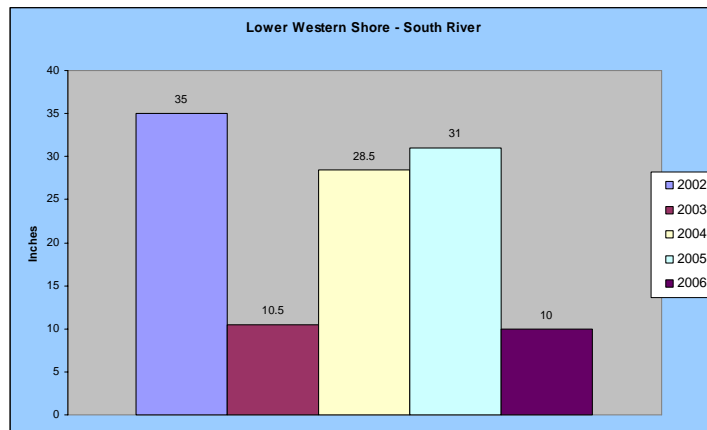
The Lower Western Shore Team held their annual West River Wade-In on Saturday, May 13th in conjunction with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) Annual Open House and the West/Rhode Riverkeeper Program. The wade-in originator Sen. Bernie Fowler leading the crown; Tuck Hines, SERC Director; Chesapeake Bay Trust Chair Midgett Parker; and West River resident, Del. Virginia Clagett.



Open House Program Director, Amy Calhoun, and 6 volunteers, demonstrated the effects of storm-water runoff with a watershed model and also showed visitors how to make their own Secchi disks to measure water clarity. The wade-in and open house attracted an estimated 1200 visitors.

South River

The Lower Western Shore Team and the South River Federation teamed up again to hold their Annual Wade-In and Paddle. Over 40 kayakers made their way through the headwaters of the South River down to Edgewater Beach where the wade-in was held. Edgewater Beach is in the middle of a restoration project where volunteers are adding rock buffers to the beach and replacing sand. For this reason the wade-in results were not true to the progress being made there.



CBF

The weather was perfect for the First Annual Wade-In on June 15th at Chesapeake Bay Foundation's beach. Children learned about the local fish and minnows that live near the shoreline and saw them first hand after a seining. County Executive Janet Owens and Wayne Taylor, Alderman of Annapolis, were in attendance and the event was covered by Fox45 News during their 10 o'clock broadcast that evening. After wading in 27 inches we shared food and enjoyed the picturesque location of CBF.

Spa Creek/Back Creek

The 5th Annual Wade-In for both Back Creek and Spa Creek was held on June 11th at Annapolis Maritime Museum and Truxtun Park. Annapolis Mayor Ellen Moyer led the Back Creek Wade-In with, other elected officials, trib team members, volunteers and local citizens following

suit. The group waded 27 inches before they could no longer see their feet in both Creeks. Coffee was provided by Chesapeake Bay Roasting. "We have focused a great deal of energy and resources in shoreline stabilization, stormwater management, and watershed restoration," Mayor Moyer said. "The work of volunteers, who have leveraged them into action plans and projects, has been nothing short of phenomenal."



Lower Potomac

The Lower Potomac Tributary Team held its 8th Annual Wade In at Mirant's Morgantown Power Generating Station on Saturday, June 10th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Great food, a good brisk breeze, and bright sunshine pretty much set the stage for another wade into the Potomac River at Pasquahanza Point, near the US Route 301 Bridge. Many thanks to our Lower Potomac team partner, Mirant MidAtlantic, for sponsoring the event, preparing the site, handling set up and clean up, providing the tent and public address system, and for the refreshments. The food was great, and the point looked as beautiful as ever!

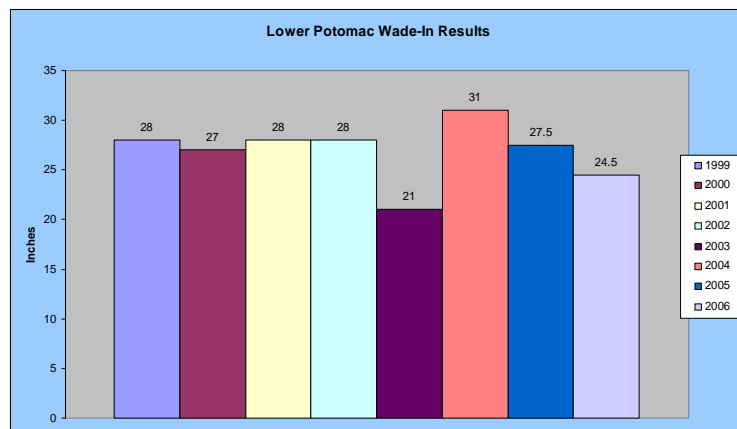


Despite the breezes, several of the Lower Potomac trib team partners were on hand with displays featuring their organizations. Besides Mirant's display highlighting their environmental work, Margery LaMar of the Port Tobacco River Conservancy had a facts buzz board with questions about her river; Valerie Nyce of the Wicomico Scenic River Commission brought a watershed display and give aways, and Curtis Dalpra of the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin brought display and assisted with pre publicity. The Maryland Tributary Teams program brought a display about the

harmful effects of lawn fertilizer, and the industry movement to eliminate phosphorus from bags of fertilizer designed for homeowner use.

Highlights of the day were provided by the Clearwater Nature Center's Raptor Show, including an eagle, barred owl, screech owl, great horned owl and a red tailed hawk. Mirant, once again set up a pond to display two of the many sturgeon that they are hand rearing.

After a lunch of burgers and dogs and rich chocolate desserts, Lower Potomac team vice chair, David Waring welcomed the attendees, and gave an overview of the purpose of the Bernie Fowler style event. Following remarks by the sponsor and honored guests, Mirant officials joined team members, Delegate John Wood, and Senator Roy Dyson for the Wade In, while a water snake watched us from a distance. The strong wind and



chop on the river gave us a lower clarity reading this year, a mere 24.5 inches, although we noticed a lot more SAV this year.

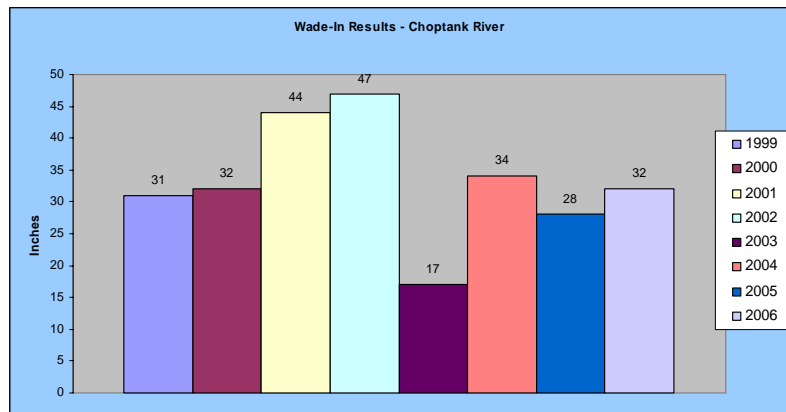
Choptank

The Choptank Team's Wade In was on Saturday, June 25th in Oxford, Maryland, as a part of the annual Cardboard Boat Races festival. This event, sponsored by the Oxford chapter of the "Boat Bums International", is held on the Tred Avon River each year as a fund raiser for Maryland Special Olympics. The Wade In occurs prior to the start of the cardboard boat races.

A modest display board provided an explanation of the how's and why's of water clarity, as well as a comparison of the history of Wade In readings to the more scientific Secchi Depth readings taken by the water quality scientists of MD's DNR.

Of particular interest to the 300 spectators gathered for the cardboard boat races was the explanation of the significance of the Wade In event. Started by retired State Senator Bernie Fowler, of Calvert County, the Wade In is a non-technical test of water clarity. Waders walk into the water until they can no longer see their white sneakers, and at that point, a reading, or measurement is taken. The invitation extended to the spectators netted about two dozen extra people (and a few dogs) to participate in the Wade In.

The Wade In participants also included state, county and local elected officials. The Official Reading as determined by our "top-hat-wearing" Delegate Addie Eckhardt was 32 inches. Also joining Delegate Eckhardt and Choptank Tributary Team chair Rob Wieland were Delegate Jeannie Haddaway, Senator Rich Colburn, Talbot County Council President Hilary Spence, and Oxford Councilman Jim Klair. Team member Dave Nemazie provided the wade in "play by play" announcements while Skipper Marquess "admiral of the cardboard boat fleet" added color.



Upper Eastern Shore

The Upper Eastern Shore (UES) Tributary Team held its 8th annual Wade In on from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on June 3rd at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center (CBEC) in Grasonville, Queen Anne's County, MD.

Despite a chilly, damp and windy start to the day, over 160 local residents joined tributary team members and elected officials for a celebration of the efforts to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay, and its tributaries. Visitors were treated to Free Admission to CBEC for the day, and the full schedule of events for all ages included a Birds of Prey show, a wood duck hike, a marsh trail hike, a terrapin program for the pre-school set, and educational displays in the

pavilion by CBEC, the Chester River Association, DNR's Natural Resources Police, the Queen Anne's county Master Gardeners, the Sassafras River Association, and the Maryland Tributary Strategies Program. Upper Eastern Shore team members staffed many of the exhibits, and presented programs on local SAV, and the fundamentals of the nitrogen cycle. Volunteers from



CBEC staffed the remaining programs, and provided a delicious lunch for just a couple of dollars. Each visitor received the now classic Upper Eastern Shore WADE IN Tee shirt with the award-winning design by local student Sara Figiel. Music was by the Bay Country Gentlemen.

UES team chair Frank DiGialleonardo welcomed the participants and following a stewardship theme, explained what each person could do to help improve water quality. Mr. DiGialleonardo joined Delegate Dick Sossi, Delegate Mary Roe-Walkup, Queen Anne's County Commissioner Gene Ransom, Cecil County Commissioner Mark Guns, and Queenstown Commissioner Mitch Keiler, DNR Assistant Secretary Frank Dawson, and many team members, family and friends to wade into Eastern Bay to a depth of 23 inches. Not too bad for a day with whitecaps and small craft warnings.

The Upper Eastern Shore Wade In at Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center has grown into such a huge success thanks to the great partnership between the Upper Eastern Shore tributary team, and the fine volunteers and staff at CBEC. Each year, additional partners add both financially and in kind to make this event into the festival that it has become. While there are too many folks to name, the many high school student volunteers deserve special recognition for help setting up, cleaning up, and assisting with staffing the event throughout the day. You know who you are, and we are grateful to each one of you.

